

SMSgt (Ret.) Rob Rosenberger

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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MAJOR GENERAL WALTER CAMPBELL SWEENEY, JR., USAF

Walter Campbell Sweeney, Jr., was born in Wheeling, West Virginia, July 23, 1909. He was graduated from the U.S. Military Academy and commissioned a second lieutenant of Infantry June 12, 1930.

He then served at Infantry installations in the United States for four years and in October, 1934, entered flying school at Randolph Field, Texas. Upon completing his primary flying training, he transferred to the advanced flying school at Kelly Field, Texas, from which he was graduated in October, 1935. He transferred from the Infantry to the Air Corps in January, 1936. His first assignment was with the Third Attack Group at Barksdale Field, Louisiana, where he served as squadron operations officer, flight commander, and group adjutant.

In June, 1939, General Sweeney joined the Fifth Bomb Group in Hawaii, and the following February transferred to the 11th Bomb Group in Hawaii as commanding officer of the 50th Bomb Squadron. In June, 1942, he became staff officer of the Executive Theater Group on the War Department General Staff. He was assigned to the 73rd Bomb Wing at Salina, Kansas, in February, 1944, and served, successively, as its executive, deputy commander, and chief of staff.

In January, 1945, he went to the South Pacific theater with the wing and served with it until the following August, when he returned to the United States. During this period he flew seven combat missions.

His next assignment was at Air Force headquarters in Washington, D.C., as a member of the Strategic Policy Branch. He entered the National War College at Washington, D.C. in August, 1946, and upon graduation a year later remained there as an instructor.

In July, 1948, he was appointed executive officer in the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, and the following December was named Director of Plans for Strategic Air Command headquarters at Offutt AFB, Omaha, Nebraska.

General Sweeney has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, and Air Medal.

He is rated a Command Pilot, Aircraft Observer, and Technical Observer.

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PROMOTIONS

He was promoted to first lieutenant (permanent) on August 1, 1935; to captain (permanent) on June 12, 1940, to major (temporary) on July 15, 1941; to lieutenant colonel (temporary) on January 4, 1942; to colonel (temporary) on August 1, 1944; to major (permanent) on June 12, 1947; to colonel (permanent) on April 2, 1948; to brigadier general (temporary) on December 21, 1948; to major general (temporary) October 9, 1951, with date of rank from September 24, 1951.

END

Up-to-date as of 11 October 1951.